# AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer related method for funding a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services;

b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system; ~~and~~

c. providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, ~~whereby the vendor pays a fee for an opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system, wherein the fee paid by the vendor is a percentage of the costs of the goods and/or services provided to the state by the vendor~~

d. determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

e. sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

f. sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

g. sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee, wherein the customer is one of the group consisting of a person seeking a driver's license, a person seeking a vehicle license, a person seeking a voter registration, a person seeking a license to practice professionally in the state, a person seeking a business registration, a person seeking a sales tax certificate, a person seeking a sales permit and a person seeking a generic state identification document.

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Claim 4 (currently amended):  The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

Claim 5 (currently amended):  A computer based method for a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

a.      providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the internet-based procurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from customers comprising persons seeking services from a state agency through use of the internet-based procurement system and payments by reduced fees from the state government agency; and

b.      providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system to communicate electronically with vendors for goods or services desired by the state government agency, and with customers for services provided by a state agency

c.      providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency;

d.      determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

e.      sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

f.      sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

g.      sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 6 (currently amended):  The method of claim 5, further comprising:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency; and

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

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reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund.

reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and

sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee for the opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system, where the fee paid by the vendor is a percentage of the cost to the state of the goods and/or service provided by the vendor.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 5 comprising an additional step of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee, wherein the customer is one of the group consisting of a person seeking a driver's license, a person seeking a vehicle license, a person seeking a voter registration, a person seeking a license to practice professionally in the state, a person seeking a business registration, a person seeking a sales tax certificate, a person seeking a sales permit and a person seeking a generic state identification document.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 5 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A system for providing Internet-based electronic procurement services to a state government agency, comprising:

● a computer having a processor, a memory, a database, and communications connections to the Internet, the computer provided by a services provider;

● a first server mechanism coupled to the computer for providing procurement channels between buyers and sellers of goods and services;

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a second server mechanism coupled to the first server mechanism for communicating with an Internet portal in the state government agency whereby citizens and other customers of state services can communicate with a state agency; and

- a third server mechanism coupled to the computer for communicating with a qualified vendor of goods or services ~~who is willing to pay a fee for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency, the fee providing a basis for reducing the price of the procurement system to the state government agency,~~ wherein the computer includes executable commands for:

determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A system for implementing a computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency, comprising:

a server computer hosting an eProcurement system accessible via client computers to a plurality of state government agencies who comprise potential buyers of goods and/or services, said eProcurement system including a user interface (UI) comprising controls whereby a state government agency user selects criteria and a display whereby results are displayed;

a database of information electronically coupled to the server computer concerning goods and services available from a plurality of a qualified vendors ~~of goods or services who are willing to pay a fee for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency, wherein the fee is a percentage of the costs to the state of the goods and/or services provided by the vendor~~;

~~whereby~~ wherein said eProcurement system is available via the Internet to assist a state government agency buyer in locating a product or service of interest and in locating a specific qualified vendor, and the server computer includes executable instructions for:

determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

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sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to a services provider of the eProcurement system.

Claim 11 (previously amended):  The system of claim 10 wherein the computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency is provided by a services provider for use by the state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the computerized eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from customers comprising persons seeking services from a state agency through use of the computerized eProcurement system.

Claim 12 (currently amended):  An internet based method for use in an eProcurement system by a state government agency comprising the following acts:

providing a web site having a user interface (UI), wherein the UI includes user input and display windows for use by a state government agency user;

receiving at the web site user inputs indicative of a desired product or service;

determining from the user inputs whether the user is a state employee seeking a purchase of goods and/or services for the state, or whether the user is a citizen or other customer seeking to purchase a good and/or service from the state;

determining from a database whether the desired product or service is available from a state agency or from a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee for the opportunity to be connected to the eProcurement system; and

providing information regarding the availability of the desired product or service to the state government agency user whether this user is a state employee or a customer of state services, wherein the cost of the eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from customers comprising persons seeking services from a state agency through use of eProcurement system and payments of reduced fees from the state government agency.

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determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

    sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

    sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

    sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer related method for funding a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

    a.    providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services;

    b.    providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system; and

    c.    providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency; ~~whereby the vendor pays a fee to a state government agency for an opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system, wherein the fee paid by the vendor is a percentage of the cost of the goods or services provided to the state government agency by the vendor, said fee being used in partial payment to the services provider;~~

    determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

    sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

    sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

    sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): The method of claim 13 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee payable to the state government agency for an opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system, said fee being used in

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partial payment to the services provider, wherein the customer is one of the group consisting of a person seeking a driver's license, a person seeking a vehicle license, a person seeking a voter registration, a person seeking a license to practice professionally in the state, a person seeking a business registration, a person seeking a sales tax certificate, a person seeking a sales permit and a person seeking a generic state identification document.

Claim 16 (previously added): The method of claim 13 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 ~~comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to a state government agency for the opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system, said fee being returned in partial payment to the services provider~~ further comprising; sending a development payment from the reserve fund to the services provider for funding development of the internet-based procurement system.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A system for providing Internet-based electronic procurement services to a state government agency, comprising:

- a computer having a processor, a memory, a database, and communications connections to the Internet, the computer provided by a services provider;
- a first server mechanism coupled to the computer for providing procurement channels between buyers and sellers of goods and services;
- a second server mechanism coupled to the first server mechanism for communicating with an Internet portal in the state government agency; and

a third server mechanism coupled to the computer for communicating with a qualified vendor of goods or services who is willing to pay a fee to a state government agency for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency, wherein ~~the fee paid by the vendor is a percentage of the cost of the goods or services provided to the state government agency by the~~

~~vendor, the fee providing a basis for reducing the price of the procurement system to the state government agency~~ the server computer includes executable instructions for:

determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The system of claim 18 wherein the system for a state government agency is provided by a services provider for use by the state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from customers comprising persons seeking services from a state agency through use of the computerized eProcurement system.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An internet based method for use in an eProcurement system by a state government agency comprising the acts of:

providing a web site having a user interface (UI), wherein the UI includes user input and display windows for use by a state government agency user;

receiving at the web site user inputs indicative of a desired product or service;

determining from a database whether the desired product or service is available from a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to a state government agency for the opportunity to be connected to the eProcurement system, said fee being returned to a services provider in partial payment for their services; ~~and~~

providing information regarding the availability of the desired product or service to the state government agency user, wherein the cost of the eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from customers desiring service from a ~~state government agency.~~

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determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 21 (new): A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

sending a development payment from the reserve fund to the services provider for funding development of the internet-based procurement system.

Claim 22 (new): A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency.

Claim 23 (new): A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund,

reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and

sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

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